

Civil Aviation News

weeks to come. On the first day of the plan, A.O.A. sold 35 excursion tickets in London, Prestwick and Shannon. B.O.A.C. has reported a "highly gratifying" response.

Heston has been closed for all flying, and in no circumstances will permission be given for landing at that airfield owing to obstructions which have made it dangerous to aircraft.

Hong Kong Airways, an associate of B.O.A.C., have recently completed the 1,000th round trip between Hong Kong and Canton. They began operating international routes in the Far East in December, 1947.

Passengers carried on Australian internal air lines for the year ended June, 1948, numbered 1,217,178. A.N.A. carried 584,170 and T.A.A. 343,811 passengers. The amount of freight carried during the year was 26,036 tons.

The air ferry for motor vehicles between Folkestone and Le Touquet, operated by Silver City Airways, Ltd., has now ceased operation for the season. This service, which was sponsored by the A.A. and R.A.C., has been operating on an experimental basis for ten weeks, and during that time has carried 174 motor cars.

On selected runways at certain airfields in the U.K. a new type of approach lighting has been installed. A single straight line of sodium lights on the centre line of the runway extends for a distance of 4,500ft from the threshold of the runway, with lights spaced 300ft apart. Two runways at Northolt and one at Nutts Corner, Belfast, have been completed so far, and additional installations are in hand.

From May 1st to September 30th this year, Aer Lingus carried 104,276 passengers. The Dublin-London route was operated at 12 round-trip services a day, and carried 44,990 passengers. The Shannon-London route carried 3,207 passengers on one service a day. The passenger figures for other routes were as follows: Liverpool 18,797; Manchester 13,956; Glasgow 12,054; Paris 2,049; Isle of Man 3,671; Shannon 3,266; Amsterdam 484.

Captain C. W. J. Allen has registered a new charter company, Allen Aircraft Services, Limited, with offices at Croydon Airport. More than 20 years ago Captain Allen surveyed sites and made recommendations for the development of airfields in South Africa with an Avro "504" aircraft. He subsequently flew Handley Page 42s on the London-Paris route, and Empire flying-boats for Imperial Airways. A long spell

of charter flying with Air Taxis ended with the outbreak of war in 1939.

During operations in 1947 the State-controlled East African Airways Corporation incurred a loss of £20,000. In reporting the loss the general manager blamed what he termed the ridiculously low standard of communications and said that a telegram took longer than the aircraft to which it referred.

Work on the new airport at Ezeiza, near Buenos Aires, is nearly completed and, provisionally, it will be in operation at the end of the year. Covering 18,600 acres, it is claimed to be the third largest international airport in the world.

It is understood that an official delegation from the Netherlands Government is shortly going to Australia to make final arrangements for reopening, with Constellations, a K.L.M. service to Sydney.

S.A.S.-A.B.A. airlines, in collaboration with the Finnish Aero Co., opened a new service from Stockholm to Abo (Turku), Finland, on October 4th. Services are run on all weekdays, and from Abo there are air connections to the Finnish towns of Vasa, Tammerfors, Kemi and Björneborg.

Regular services from Amsterdam to Hong Kong via Rome, Geneva, Cairo, Shahjah, Bombay, Calcutta and Bangkok, are being flown by Skymasters owned by the Norwegian shipping company Ludwig Braathens. Fares for through bookings are: London to Bombay, £129; London to Calcutta, £142; London to Bangkok, £158; and London to Hong Kong, £170.

An increase from 13,036,748 passenger miles in the first six months of 1947 to 19,473,492 during the corresponding period this year is announced by the West Indies Division of K.L.M. The number of passengers carried increased from 32,111 to 46,286; freight from 859,828 lb to 1,304,627 lb; and mail from 77,526 lb to 112,684 lb. The present length of the K.L.M. routes in the West Indies is 6,200 miles, linking 16 of the principal cities in the area.

At the end of October and during the following six weeks representatives of British Aviation Services and its trading subsidiary, Britavia, Ltd., will tour Europe, Egypt, East Africa, Central Africa and the Union, returning through West Africa and the Iberian Peninsula in a Lockheed Lodestar. The aircraft will be specially fitted to carry a wide range of engineering and allied products for export, some of which weigh more than 500 lb. A stay of two weeks will be made in Rhodesia where the sponsoring companies have their own subsidiary in Lusaka. It was originally intended to take one of the company's Bristol Freighters, but those particular aircraft are busily engaged on the Berlin air lift.

FROM THE CLUBS

AT the Herts and Essex Aero Club during the two weeks from October 17th onwards, the Club championships, consisting of exercises in general flying, aerobatics, cross countries, forced and precautionary landings, will be held, and on November 7th, at the conclusion of the championships, a dance will take place. The annual ball of the Club has been arranged for December 15th at the Park Lane Hotel, and it is expected that the price of tickets will be the same as last year, i.e., two guineas each.

A total of 420 hours was flown at Broxbourne during the month of September.

FOLLOWING the launching of the Thames Valley Flying Group, announced in *Flight*, September 30th, at White Waltham airfield it is now learned that this organization has joined forces with the Community Flying Club at Woodley airfield, Reading, who have already had experience with operating on communal lines. This amalgamation has helped to solve the problem of whether to have single- or two-seater aircraft since the Community Club had both a Moth Minor and a Piper Cub two-seaters and the Thames Valley group will add a single-seat Chilton. The new organization has been offered free hangar and clubhouse accommodation and this hospitable gesture easily offsets the travelling to Woodley instead of White Waltham.

THE annual general meeting of the Lancashire Aero Club was held on September 21st, and was immediately preceded by a special general meeting. At the conclusion of the A.G.M. the Parnall Trophy was presented to Mr. Woodward. This trophy is presented to the person, chosen by at least two

of the previous holders, who has during the preceding year done outstanding work for the Club. Numerous members of the Club have during September been using aircraft for extensive flying for business purposes.

The Club regrets that its appeal published in August for lecturers on various subjects connected with flying, has met with disappointing response. It renews this appeal, therefore, and hopes that members who can do so will come forward and volunteer instruction on elementary navigation, meteorology, engines, airframes and airmanship. The competitions for the Rodman, Leeming and Pemberton trophies were to be held on October 16th, commencing at 2 p.m. The Rodman and Pemberton trophies are for landings performed by senior pilots (over 50 hours solo) and juniors respectively. The Leeming trophy is awarded to the winner of a navigational exercise.

SOME twenty members of the Yorkshire Aeroplane club participated in the club's rally to the Tudor Close Hotel, Rottingdean, near Brighton, on September 10th-12th, which was a great success. The club also provided the aircraft for joy-rides on Battle of Britain Day, September 18th, at Church Fenton R.A.F. Station. Recently Mr. F. H. Sturdy, a club member, completed his first solo after only 3 hours 50 minutes' dual instruction, having had no previous flying experience. From October 1st until March 31st next the reduced membership rates are in force being £3 3s for flying membership, and £2 2s for non-flying membership. A number of Auster aircraft are for sale at the club varying in price from £450 to £1,275, and these may be seen at Sherburn-in-Elmet. Admission to the club's Bonfire Party on November 5th is to be by ticket only, price 10s inclusive of dinner, fireworks, etc.